Amendments to the Claims:

1-14. (Canceled)

15. (Currently amended) A microphone adapter for a respirator having ~~a speech projector and~~ an exhale diaphragm, the adapter comprising a sound tube with a first open end designed to be located and held ~~relative to~~ proximate the ~~speech projector~~ exhale diaphragm, to receive and conduct speech sound travelling in exhaled air therefrom, ~~at a point downstream of an exhale diaphragm~~ and a second open end designed to be coupled ~~with~~ to transmit the sound to a microphone located outside and adjacent the respirator, whereby, in use, speech emanating from the ~~speech projector~~ exhale diaphragm is conducted by and transmitted via the sound tube to the microphone.

16. (Previously presented) An adapter according to claim 15 including a microphone box in which the second open end of the sound tube terminates, said box being arranged to fit over a microphone located outside and adjacent the respirator and shield the microphone from any incident sound other than that received via the sound tube.

17. (Previously presented) An adaptor according to claim 15 wherein a microphone box receives the second open end of the sound tube, and the microphone box is adapted to be releasably pushed over a microphone.

18. (Previously presented) The combination comprising a respirator having a speech projector and a microphone adaptor including a sound tube with a first open end designed to be located and held relative to the speech projector to receive speech therefrom at a point downstream of an exhale diaphragm and a second open end designed to be coupled with a microphone located outside and adjacent the respirator, whereby, in use, speech emanating from the speech projector is transmitted via the sound tube to the microphone.

19. (Previously presented) A combination according to claim 18 wherein the respirator includes an exhale diaphragm that is located in a region substantially in front of the mouth of a wearer of the respirator, which diaphragm opens into the sound projector to leave a clear passage between the mouth of the wearer and the first open end of the sound tube when the wearer exhales during the speech process.

20. (Previously presented) A combination according to claim 19 wherein the respirator further includes an inner face seal internal of an outer layer of the respirator and wherein the exhale diaphragm extends through both the internal face seal and the outer layer.

21. (Previously presented) Battlefield communication equipment comprising:

(a) a headset to be worn by an operative, the headset having earphones, a boom microphone that lies adjacent the mouth of the operative and a connection for a radio enabling the operative to have two way communication;

(b) a respirator; and

(c) a microphone adaptor, the microphone adaptor having a sound tube having a first open end and a second open end, a microphone box mounted on the second open end arranged such that when the operative is wearing the respirator, the operative can fit the first open end of the sound tube to the respirator and can fit the microphone box at the other end of the microphone adaptor over the boom microphone of the headset, the adaptor being arranged to receive speech from within the respirator and transmit that speech via the sound tube and microphone box to the boom microphone.

22. (Previously presented) Battlefield communication equipment according to claim 21 wherein the respirator includes a speech projector and the microphone adaptor is arranged to receive speech from within the respirator via said speech projector.

23. (Previously presented) Battlefield communication equipment according to claim 21 wherein the respirator includes a speech projector and an exhale diaphragm and the microphone adaptor includes the sound tube with a first open end being designed to be located and held relative to the speech projector to receive speech therefrom at a point downstream of the exhale diaphragm.

24. (Previously presented) Battlefield communication equipment of claim 21 wherein the microphone box on the second open end of the sound tube fits over and shields the boom microphone from any incident sound other than that received via the sound tube.

25. (Previously presented) Battlefield communication equipment according to claim 21 wherein the microphone box is adapted to be releasably pushed over the boom microphone.

26. (Previously presented) Battlefield communication equipment according to claim 21 wherein the radio to which the boom microphone is connected is a digitally encrypted radio.

27. (Previously presented) A microphone adapter for a respirator having a speech projector comprising, a sound tube with a first open end designed to be mounted in the vicinity of the speech projector, and a second open end designed to be coupled with a microphone, whereby, in use, speech emanating from the speech projector is transmitted via the sound tube to the microphone.

28. (Previously presented) A microphone adapter according to claim 27 further including a microphone box in which the second open end of the sound tube terminates, said microphone box being arranged to fit over a microphone and shield the microphone from any incident sound other than that received via the sound tube.

29. (Currently amended) A microphone adaptor according to claim 28 wherein the microphone is a boom microphone of a headset, and the microphone box is designed and arranged to push releasably over the boom microphone~~, which is a boom microphone of a headset~~.

30. (Previously presented) A combination of a respirator having a speech projector and a microphone adaptor as claimed in claim 27.

31. (Previously presented) A combination according to claim 30 wherein the microphone adaptor further includes a microphone box in which the second open end of the sound tube terminates, said microphone box being arranged to fit over a microphone and shield the microphone from any incident sound other than that received via the sound tube.

32. (Canceled)

33. (Previously presented) A combination according to claim 30 wherein the respirator includes an exhale diaphragm that is located in a region substantially in front of the mouth of a wearer of the respirator, which diaphragm opens into the sound projector to leave a clear passage between the mouth of the wearer and the first open end of the sound tube when the wearer exhales during the speech process.

34. (Previously presented) A combination according to claim 30 wherein the respirator includes an inner face seal which prevents exhaled air from reaching windows formed in an outer layer of the respirator wherein the exhale diaphragm provides a route for exhaled air from the inner face seal and into the speech projector.

35. (Previously presented) A microphone adapter according to claim 15 wherein a resilient sound tube locator is mounted on the first open end of the sound tube.

36. (Currently amended) A microphone adapter according to claim 35 wherein the sound tube locator is shaped so that when a boom microphone is located outside and adjacent the respirator, the second end of the sound tube lies ~~at the same location~~ proximate the boom microphone.

37. (Previously presented) A microphone adapter according to claim 15 wherein the sound tube is U-shaped and composed of semi-rigid material.

38. (Canceled)

39. (Currently amended) A microphone adapter according to claim [[38]] 41, wherein the sound tube is substantially U-shaped and composed of semi-rigid material, and a resilient sound tube locator is mounted on the first open end of the sound tube, and the sound tube is further shaped so that when a boom microphone is located outside and adjacent the respirator, the microphone box lies ~~at the same location~~ proximate the boom microphone.

40. (New) The microphone adapter of claim 15, further comprising a speech projector disposed proximate the exhale diaphragm, the speech projector adapted to project speech sound that has passed in exhaled air through the exhale diaphragm, wherein the first open end is further located and held proximate the speech projector.

41. (New) A microphone adapter for a respirator having a speech projector and an exhale diaphragm, the adapter comprising:

a sound tube with

a first open end designed to be located and held relative to the speech projector to receive speech therefrom at a point downstream of an exhale diaphragm, and

a second open end designed to be coupled with a boom microphone located outside and adjacent the respirator; and

a microphone box in which the second open end of the sound tube terminates and is coupled with the interior of the microphone box, said box having

an opening in one wall to enable the boom microphone to be slid into the microphone box to shield the microphone from any incident sound other than that received via the sound tube, and

a wall structure that channels sound from the second end of the sound tube to the boom microphone;

whereby, in use, speech emanating from the speech projector is transmitted via the sound tube to the microphone.